

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancel)
2. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim ~~1~~19,  
~~wherein said forming~~including a step ~~comprises of~~drying the TSP  
composition and ~~optionally storing it, between the aforementioned mixing~~  
~~step and the water addition step~~steps (a) and (b).
3. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim ~~2~~19,  
wherein the phosphoric acid for etching has a P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> content of between  
~~30% and 50% by weight, preferably between 35 and 40% by weight.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim ~~3~~19,  
wherein the pulp of ~~the forming step (b)~~ has a pH of 1.2 to 3.2.
5. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim ~~4~~19,  
wherein ~~said pulp~~, the molar ratio Ca/P in said pulp of step (b) is  
~~around~~about 0.4 to 0.6.
6. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim ~~5~~19,  
wherein ~~it takes~~steps (a) – (e) take place at ambient pressure and  
temperature.
7. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim ~~6~~19,  
wherein said ions of a strong base ~~ions~~ are sodium ions, potassium ions  
and/or ammonium ions.

8. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim ~~7~~19, wherein the water-soluble calcium phosphate is ~~in the form of~~ calcium dihydrogen phosphate (MCP), and ~~in that~~wherein the water-insoluble calcium phosphate is ~~in the form of~~ calcium monohydrogen phosphate (DCP).

9. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim ~~8~~19, wherein during ~~the displacement in the liquid phase resulting from said separation,~~step (d) said liquid phase has a pH of 4.5 to 7.

10. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim ~~9~~19, wherein ~~in order to obtain said displacement,~~in step (d)  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  and/or NaOH is added to the liquid phase resulting from ~~said separation~~step (c), in a quantity such that the molar ratio Na/P is around 1 to 3.

11. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim ~~10~~7, wherein the aqueous solution of strong base has a molar ratio between sodium monohydrogen phosphate and sodium dihydrogen phosphate of around~~about~~ 2/1.

12. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to Claim ~~11~~19, wherein the phosphoric acid for etching is phosphoric acid known as WPPA.

13. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to claim 4, wherein said pH is 2 to 3.

14. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to claim 13,  
wherein said pH is 2.5.

15. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to claim 5,  
wherein the molar ratio is 0.45.

16. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to claim 9,  
wherein said pH is 5 to 6.5.

17. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to claim 16,  
wherein said pH is 6.

18. (Currently Amended) The method~~Method~~ according to claim 10,  
wherein said molar ratio is about 1.67.

19. (New) A method for preparing strong base phosphates, comprising:

(a) mixing phosphate ore and phosphoric acid for etching in  
order to obtain a pasty triple superphosphate (TSP) composition,

(b) adding water to the TSP composition of step (a), while  
forming a pulp consisting of an aqueous phase, which contains water-  
soluble calcium phosphate in the form of calcium ions and phosphate ions,  
and a solid phase which contains impurities,

(c) separating said liquid phase and said solid phase of step  
(b),

(d) in the liquid phase resulting from step (c), displacing the calcium ions by ions of a strong base which results in formation of an aqueous solution of phosphate(s) of said strong base and precipitation of a water-insoluble calcium phosphate, and

(e) isolating the precipitated calcium phosphate from the aqueous solution of strong base phosphate(s) of step (d).

20. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein the  $P_2O_5$  content is between 35 and 40% by weight.